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organization of the Central Committee for the Survey and Study of British Vegetation, more popularly known as the British Vegetation Committee. This organization secured the effective cooperation of British ecologists, and among other things has to its credit the organization of the International Phytogeographic Excursion of 1911 and the publication of *Types of British vegetation.* In 1912 there was formally organized the British Ecological Society, which has become the successor of the British Vegetation Committee. One of the chief tasks of this new society is the publication of a journal. The first thought was to have this new journal be little more than an organ of the British ecologists. But a broader view prevailed, and we now have an international journal devoted to ecology, the first of its kind; from the first number the quality of the journal has been such as to give it rank with the foremost botanical periodicals.

The scope of the new ecological journal is such as to make an effective appeal to ecologists of other lands quite as much as to those of the British Isles. To facilitate use by both general and local readers, articles and reviews of general nature are kept distinct from those of more local significance. To the writer the "high-water mark" of the new journal seems to be reached by its reviews. It is doubtful if the reviews in any other botanical journal equal in efficiency those of the new *Journal of Ecology.* They are models as to thoroughness and accuracy, in many cases making it really unnecessary to consult the original papers except to secure details. It is unusual and highly illuminating to have published in many of the reviews the more significant illustrations of the original papers. The only adverse criticism that the writer would make is that the reviews generally are unsigned. It goes without saying that the new journal is absolutely necessary for the working ecologist. The British ecologists may well congratulate themselves upon their accomplishments during the last decade. In 1904 their work was scattered and mostly of local significance; today they are unquestionably the leaders in cooperative ecological activity.—H. C. COWLES.

American Journal of Botany.—The first number of this new journal has appeared, and needs no explanation to American botanists. It is the official publication of the Botanical Society of America, and is published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The introductory statement by the editor-in-chief, Professor F. C. NEWCOMBE of the University of Michigan, shows that the increase of means of publication has not kept pace with production. "The result has been that our established botanical journals in America are overstocked with manuscripts waiting their turn, our colleges and universities are making outlets for their own production, and foreign journals have their courtesy and capacity taxed by the offers of American contributors. All three of the conditions just named are undesirable: an author does not like to wait a year or more for the publication of his paper, the multiplication of small periodicals by colleges and universities is a vexation to research, and it is neither just to ourselves nor kind to our colleagues of other lands to ask them to give large printing space to our contributions." It is evident that the new journal will relieve this pressure somewhat, which the established journals have felt keenly.

This initial number contains the following papers: "The development of *Agaricus arvensis* and *A. comtulus*," by GEO. F. ATKINSON; "Studies of teratological phenomena in their relation to evolution and the problems of heredity. I," by ORLAND E. WHITE; "Nuclear behavior in the promycelia of *Caeoma nitens* Burrill and *Puccinia Peckiana* Howe," by L. O. KUNKEL; and "An axial abscission of *Impatiens Sultani* as the result of traumatic stimuli," by R. A. GORTNER and J. A. HARRIS.—J. M. C.

Illinois Academy of Science.—The volume of *Transactions* of the Illinois Academy of Science for 1913 contains the following botanical papers: "Annotated list of the algae of eastern Illinois," by E. N. TRANSEAU; "Reproduction by layering in the black spruce," by GEO. D. FULLER; "Evaporation and soil moisture on the prairies of Illinois," by E. M. HARVEY; and "The stratification of atmospheric humidity in the forest," by GEO. D. FULLER, J. R. LOCKE, and WADE MCNUTT.—J. M. C.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Paleobotanical notes.—ARBER[3] has done a most useful service in revising the seed-impressions of the British Coal Measures, and putting them into more definite categories. The most recent list, that of KIDSTON in 1894, included 5 genera with 19 species. ARBER'S revision contains 14 genera with 37 species. These detached seed-impressions belong to both Cycadofilicales and Cordaitales, whose seeds cannot be distinguished. Of the 14 genera recognized 9 are new (*Platyspermum*, *Cornucarpus*, *Samarospermum*, *Microspermum*, *Megalospermum*, *Radiospermum*, *Neurospermum*, *Schizospermum*, *Pterospermum*). In addition to the diagnosis of genera and species, every British species is figured.

Mrs. ARBER[4] has examined sections of a new specimen of *Trigonocarpus*, showing that the sclerenchyma of the micropylar beak is preserved as far as its extreme apex, and also that the nucellus was free from the integument almost to the base of the seed.

KNOWLTON[5] has described a collection of Jurassic plants from Alaska, obtained between latitudes 68° and 69°. SEWARD'S report on a collection of

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[3] ARBER, E. A. NEWELL, A revision of the seed-impressions of the British Coal Measures. Ann. Botany **28**:81–108. *figs. 8. pls. 6–8.* 1914.

[4] ARBER, AGNES, A note on *Trigonocarpus*. Ann. Botany **28**:195, 196. *fig. 1.* 1914.

[5] KNOWLTON, F. H., The Jurassic flora of Cape Lisburne, Alaska. U.S. Geol. Survey. Professional paper 85-D. pp. 39–55. *pls. 5–8.* 1914.